



Piano Workshop of Plymouth

"Music gives soul to the universe, wings to the mind, flight to the imagination and life to everything" -Plato

A Note From Miss Liz

Dear Families,

Students have been working so hard on their pieces! I am looking forward to their performances in Concord at the NH Music Teachers Fall Festival and at our own PSU recitals. Sharing favorite music with friends and family is such an important part of being a musician. I hope you can also attend one of the many performances offered during November and December at the PSU Silver Center. This is an easy way to broaden a musical background, gain exposure to a variety of instruments, and see what hard work can accomplish!

Best wishes for a happy and healthy holiday season!

Musically,

Miss Liz

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Changing Speeds

Sometimes, composers change the tempo in the middle of a piece. At the beginning of a new section, you might notice a new tempo marking telling you what to do.

GRADUALLY getting faster: *Accelerando*, *Stringendo*

GRADUALLY getting slower: *Ritardando* (also written *ritard.* or *rit.*), *Ritenuto*, or *Rallentando*

Sometimes the music tells you to slow down at the end of a section. At the start of the next section, you might see the words: ***a tempo***.

This means to go back to the original tempo. Think of a car slowing down and then going back up to the speed limit!



"Could you kindly pick up the tempo a bit?"

Q: What is the most musical part of a turkey?

A: The drumstick

Q: What is a cow's favorite piece of music?

A: The Moooooonlight Sonata!



Flute

Flutes used to be very simple, but as music became more complex, keys were added to make playing easier. Today, flute makers still experiment to make improvements. Most flutes are silver, but some are gold or platinum. They have 17 keys and come in three pieces—the head joint, the body, and the foot joint. The flute can play notes that are written in the treble clef.

The Sonata Form: This is the structure often used in the first movement of sonatas, symphonies, and string quartets. It has 3 parts: **Exposition**, **Development**, and **Recapitulation (Recap)**.

The **exposition** usually has two themes with different moods. A transition section that leads from one key to a related key connects the themes. There might be a closing theme at the end of the exposition.

Beethoven wrote 32 sonatas, and the **Moonlight Sonata, No. 14 in C sharp minor** is one of his famous ones. He dedicated it to 17-year old Countess Giulietta Guicciardi, with whom he was deeply in love. He called the piece, "almost a fantasy." It is a powerful piece in which the two themes introduced in the exposition are developed in the second and third parts.

You might enjoy listening to and watching the color animation of it here:

<http://www.youtube.com/watch?v=oFSRs7iqAv8>

IMPORTANT PIANO EVENTS AT PSU

N.H. EVALUATIONS, MAY 10, 2014 (Required)

All PSU Preparatory Piano Students are required to participate in an evaluation program that is scheduled for Saturday May 10, 2014. Students are assessed in the areas of music reading, vocabulary, listening, and playing. Tests are geared to the student's level and are keyed to practice materials that all PSU preparatory students receive. Each year, the music and life history of a composer are highlighted. This year the composer is *Wolfgang Amadeus Mozart*. Any student who plays a work by him will receive a special prize.

PIANO MONSTER FESTIVALS –Robert Vandall, conductor (A wonderful opportunity at PSU!)

Pianists will be given the opportunity to perform in large ensembles under a conductor and to experience the excitement of teamwork. Students are grouped according to their ability levels and will receive instruction in small and large piano ensembles. *Please ask me for more information.*

Junior Piano Monster Festival— June 22—25, 2014

Student Participant Recital – June 23 8:00 PM open to the public, free of charge
Final Concert – June 25 7:30 PM open to the public –\$8.00 general admission

The Junior Festival is offered to students currently taking piano lessons and completing grades 5, 6, 7 & 8. Students will also play in a Percussion Ensemble, participate in a musicianship class, and a music specialty class of their choosing. All will sing in the chorus.

Senior Piano Monster Festival – June 26—29, 2014

Student Participant Recital – June 28 8:15 Open to the public, free of charge
Final Concert – June 29 4:00 PM open to the public --- \$8.00 general admission

The Senior Festival is offered to students currently taking piano lessons and completing grades 8, 9, 10, 11 & 12. Students will also participate in three music specialty classes of their choosing.

SOLO AND ENSEMBLE FESTIVAL—February 15, 2014—PSU

Students enter this festival through their school system. They must select one piece from an approved list and specified scales to perform for an adjudicator for a grade. I will work with the public school teacher if you are interested in this.

Important PSU Events 2012-2013

*The following are free or inexpensive concerts performed by PSU faculty or students (*indicates when Ms. Liz's teachers will play). We hope that all of you will attend one. It's an easy way to learn about different kinds of music! Contact the Silver Center for tickets.*

*Piano Trio (piano, cello, violin). November 3, 4 p.m. Smith

Jazz Ensemble and Combo. (Students, including Ms. Liz)

Nov. 14, 7p.m. Hanaway Theater

PSU Chamber Players (flute choir, piano ensemble and others)

December 4, 7 p.m. Hanaway

Contemporary Piano Festival. Concert 3:15p.m.—Winners of Competition

and PSU Piano Students. March 1, 2014

Faculty Voice Recital, Emily Jaworski and Dan Perkins. March 9, 1p.m. Recital Hall

Symphonic Band, April 27, 3 p.m. Hanaway

Jazz Ensemble and Combo, May 1, 7 p.m. Hanaway

Guitar Ensemble, May 5, 7 p.m. Studio

Chamber Players, May 7, 7 p.m. Recital Hall

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